

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EA-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 EB-11 AID-20 DRC-01

AGR-20 /212 W

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P 011020Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5668

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 7676

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AF, PK, IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN FONMIN'S VISIT TO KABUL

1. INDIAN FONMIN SWARAN SINGH VISITED KABUL OCTOBER 29 TO NOVEMBER 1. HE SAW PRESIDENT DAOUD AND VIRTUALLY ALL OTHER SENIOR AFGHAN OFFICIALS DURING HEAVY SCHEDULE WHICH INCLUDED SUBSTANTIVE AND ECONOMIC TALKS AS WELL AS FULL SOCIAL SCHEDULE. COMMUNIQUE SCHEDULED TO BE ISSUED EVENING NOVEMBER 1; WE UNDERSTAND IT WILL CLOSELY FOLLOW ONE ISSUED AT NEW DELHI FOLLOWING NAIM'S VISIT. DAOUD ACCEPTED INDIAN INVITATION VISIT PRESIDENT GIRI AND PRIMIN GANDHI AT UNSPECIFIED TIME IN FUTURE.

2. ACCORDING TO INDIAN AMBASSADOR MEHTA, FONMIN SWARAN SINGH'S THREE DAY VISIT, WHICH CONCLUDED NOVEMBER 1, WAS MARKED BY EXTREME CORDIALITY AND CLOSENESS OF VIEWS. MEHTA SAID PRESIDENT DAOUD TOOK
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SURPRISINGLY MODERATE LINE ON PUSHTUNISTAN, DISCLAIMING ANY

"ADVENTURISM" AND LOOKING TOWARD LONG-TERM PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT, EVEN THOUGH AFFIRMING HIS LIFE-LONG DEDICATION TO CAUSE OF PUSHTUN SELF-DETERMINATION. MEHTA REAFFIRMED THAT SINGH HAD BEEN PREPARED COUNSEL AFGHANS AGAINST ACTS OF PROVOCATION AND URGE IMPORTANCE OF PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF DIFFERENCES; HOWEVER, DAOUD'S WORDS OF MODERATION HAD MADE ANY INDIAN ADVICE SUPERFLUOUS, HE SAID.

3. IN BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH INDIAN FONMIN, HE MADE SIMILAR POINT TO CHARGE. SINGH SAID AFGHANS WERE DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT PAKISTANI "PROVOCATIONS," BUT THAT DAOUD SEEMED ANXIOUS AVOID CONFRONTATION. HE CONTINUED THAT "IT IS OF COURSE DIFFICULT TO GIVE ADVICE TO AFGHANS WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT IS REALLY GOING ON ON PAK SIDE OF FRONTIER." HOWEVER, HE SAID, ONE MUST LEARN IN DIPLOMACY TO IGNORE WORDS AND LOOK AT ACTIONS, CITING RECENT INCIDENTS IN INDIAN-PAK RELATIONS TO UNDERSCORE HIS POINT.

4. QUERIED ABOUT WIDESPREAD EXPECTATION HERE THAT SOME SORT OF NEW INDIAN-AFGHAN TREATY WAS IN THE WORKS, AMBASSADOR MEHTA INSISTED THIS NOT THE CASE. SAID HE HAD BEEN PREPARED RECOMMEND FAVORABLE INDIAN RESPONSE IF GOA HAD PRESSED THIS IDEA; HOWEVER, HE INSISTED, AFGHANS HAD NEVER ONCE REFERRED TO POSSIBILITY.

5. IT OBVIOUS FROM REMARKS OVERHEARD BY CHARGE THAT INTENSIVE ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS WITH GOA MINPLAN HAVE BEEN GOING ON DURING SINGH VISIT. DEPMINPLAN KHURRAM TOLD SINGH HAPPILY "WE FINISHED ALL OUR WORK EARLIER TODAY, AND OUTCOME HIGHLY SATISFACTORY." DETAILS AS YET ARE LACKING. MEHTA TOLD CHARGE AFGHANS HAD NOT REALLY DONE THEIR HOME WORK FOR THESE TALKS WHEREAS INDIANS HAD COME PREPARED TO AGREE ON EXTENSIVE ASSISTANCE BUT "WITHIN THEIR FINANCIAL CAPABILITIES."

6. MFA SOURCES STATE VISIT WENT VERY WELL. DIRECTOR FIRST POLITICAL DIVISION MFA GHAFAR (FARAH) TOLD ADCM NOVEMBER 1 DEPPRIMIN SHARQ AND DEPLAN MIN KHURRAM LED AFGHAN TEAM DISCUSSING ECONOMIC MATTERS. GHAFAR SAID TALKS HAD BEEN GOOD BUT THAT NO DECISIONS ON NEW PROJECTS NOR ENLARGEMENT OF EXISTING PROJECTS HAD BEEN REACHED. INDIANS HAD RECOGNIZED AFGHAN NEED FOR INCREASED ASSISTANCE ESPECIALLY IN AGRICULTURE BUT NEXT ROUND OF TALKS WILL FOCUS ON THESE. ON POLITICAL ISSUES, GHAFAR SAID HE HAD NOT PARTICIPATED AND DID NOT AS YET HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THIS ASPECT. CONFIDENTIAL

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7. SINGH REFERRED (IN TALK WITH CHARGE) WITH OBVIOUS SATISFACTION TO HIS RECENT CONVERSATIONS IN WASHINGTON. UNDERSCORING HIS HIGH REGARD FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER, HE MADE SPECIAL POINT OF SAYING HE HOPED SECRETARY WOULD BE ABLE VISIT NEW DELHI IN NEAR FUTURE.

8. AFGHANS TOOK UNUSUALLY HEAVY SECURITY MEASURES THROUGHOUT VISIT.

9. COMMENT: TENTATIVELY IT SEEMS VISIT WAS INDEED SUCCESS FROM AFGHAN POINT OF VIEW EVEN THOUGH NO SIGNIFICANT DECISIONS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN. REGARDLESS OF SUBSTANCE POLITICAL TALKS, GOA OBVIOUSLY CONTENT TO LET APPEARANCES SPEAK (AND SURELY HOPE PAKISTANIS WILL JUDGE THAT INDIA SUPPORTING GOA ON PUSHTUNISTAN ISSUE).

AFGHANS WILL UNDERSTANDABLY PORTRAY VISIT IN THIS FASHION AS THEY DID NAIM'S EARLIER VISIT TO DELHI.

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